IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

A communication control apparatus ~~and method for improving the search process for determining a transfer route for a packet received based on search information is described. (original) The~~ includes search information ~~is~~ associated with a tree structure. A mask prefix is associated with at least one entry, each entry including information on the mask length of a mask prefix associated therewith and a sort key. Each entry is assigned to a node in the tree structure according to a sorting order. Each node is linked to a different node at the next lower hierarchy via a branch based on the entry of the node. ~~An extracting means 26 extracts a~~ A destination address of the packet received is first extracted,~~[[.]] Search means 27 searches~~ and a search target node ~~28~~ specified by a search control ~~means 29~~ for an entry having information on the best matched prefix of the extracted address is then searched for. After completion of the node-by-node search process, ~~a route determining means 30 determines~~ a transfer route is determined for the packet received based on the longest prefix amongst the most appropriate prefixes of all the current search target nodes.